

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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APPROVED BY ARA/PAF:BBELL

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: STATE DEPARTMENT TRANSCRIPT, SEPTEMBER 19

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF STATE DEPARTMENT NOON PRESS

BRIEFING, SEPTEMBER 19:

Q: PAUL, DO WE HAVE ANY WORD ON WHY THAT AMERICAN COUPLE
WAS DETAINED IN CHILE?

A: I DON'T HAVE THE FIGURES IN FRONT OF ME. I UNDERSTAND
THAT THERE WERE THREE AMERICANS DETAINED IN CHILE. I'LL
HAVE TO CHECK ON WHAT THEIR STATUS IS AT THE PRESENT TIME.
I KNOW THAT SEVERAL AMERICANS WERE DETAINED, RELEASED, AND
THREE WERE STILL BEING DETAINED AS OF YESTERDAY, BUT I,
FRANKLY, DIDN'T CHECK IT THIS MORNING.

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Q: ANY REASON GIVEN?

A: I DON'T HAVE A REASON.

Q: WHO ARE THEY, DO YOU KNOW?

A: I HAVE THE NAMES BACK IN THE OFFICE IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED.

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Q: PAUL, CAN YOU CONFIRM REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR DAVIS IN CHILE HAS MET WITH GENERAL PINOCHET IN THE LAST 24 HOURS?

A: NO, I CAN'T CONFIRM IT.

Q: CAN YOU TAKE THE QUESTION?

A: I'LL TAKE IT.

Q: PAUL, THERE'S A STORY ABOUT CONGRESSMAN PAUL ROGERS OF FLORIDA SAYING THE STATE DEPARTMENT APPROVED A TRIP TO CHILE FOR EIGHT U.S. TEENAGE SWIMMERS ON THE EVE OF THE COUP THAT TOPPLED ALLENDE KNOWING IN ADVANCE THE COUP WOULD TAKE PLACE. AND ROGERS SAYS IT IS INTOLERABLE THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE SANCTIONED THIS TRIP UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES.

A: WHAT I HAVE TO SAY FIRST IS WHAT I SAID LAST WEEK. AND THAT IS THAT WE DID NOT KNOW THAT A COUP WAS GOING TO TAKE PLACE IN CHILE. AND I THOUGHT I HAD MADE THAT POINT CLEAR LAST WEEK.

NOW, WITH RESPECT TO THIS SWIMMING TEAM, COMPOSED OF FOUR BOYS AND FOUR GIRLS PLUS TWO ADULT COACHES, THEY DID GO TO SANTIAGO ON SEPTEMBER 4 ON AN INSTRUCTIONAL TOUR OF PERU AND CHILE. THE TEAM AND THE COACHES HAVE BEEN DELAYED FIVE DAYS BEYOND THEIR ORIGIANL SCHEDULE BECAUSE THE AIRPORT HAS BEEN CLOSED TO INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS SINCE THE COUP ON SEPTEMBER 11.

IN THE WAY OF BACKGROUND, THIS IS ONE OF THREE SUCH TEAMS SENT OUT ON A COST-SHARING BASIS BY THE AAU AND THE DEPART-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT OF STATE TO INSTRUCT SWIMMERS IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. THE OTHER TWO TEAMS HAVE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES.

Q: WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "COST-SHARING" PAUL? DOES AAU AND STATE SHARE THE COST?

A: I BELIEVE THAT'S THE CASE, YES.

Q: THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SHARING THE COST?

A: I DON'T BELIEVE THAT'S THE CASE. I THINK IT'S THE AAU AND OURSELVES, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. AND THESE TEAMS ARE PART OF OUR INTERNATIONAL ATHLETIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

I HAVE A LIST OF SOME OF THE NAMES OF THE TEAM MEMBERS HERE, WHICH I WON'T GO THROUGH RIGHT NOW.

Q: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A: THEY ARE IN SANTIAGO. OUR EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THEM. THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS, IN TURN, BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SOME OF THE PARENTS ASSURING THEM OF THE TEAM'S WELFARE.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHETHER THERE ARE OTHER AMERICANS IN ADDITION TO THESE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE, IN EFFECT, STRANDED IN CHILE? THAT IS TO SAY, AMERICANS WHO WISH TO LEAVE?

A: YES, I SEE YOUR POINT. I DON'T HAVE A NUMBER TO GIVE YOU. I'M SURE THAT THERE MUST BE SOME, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY FIRM INFORMATION ON IT.

Q: PAUL, WHEN DO YOU EXPECT THESE EIGHT SWIMMERS TO LEAVE SANTIAGO?

A: I DON'T HAVE A DEPARTURE DATE FOR YOU. LET ME CHECK
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AND SEE WHAT I CAN PROVIDE.

Q: ARE THEY ALL OKAY?

A: YES, THEY ARE.

Q: ARE THEY OUT OF MONEY OR ANYTHING?

A: I DON'T KNOW.

Q: CAN WE MOVE TO ANOTHER SUBJECT?

Q: I'VE GOT ONE MORE QUESTION.

Q: OH, SURE.

Q: PAUL, ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY MEETINGS BETWEEN STATE
DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MULTI-NATIONAL
CORPORATIONS WITH LARGE INTERESTS IN CHILE SINCE THE COUP?

A: I'M ONLY AWARE OF WHAT MR. KUBISCH SPOKE TO YESTERDAY,
THAT HE DID HAVE A LUNCH WITH VARIOUS REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WHO WERE INTERESTED IN LATIN
AMERICA, INCLUDING CHILE, BUT BY NO MEANS EXCLUSIVELY
CHILEAN-ORIENTED. THIS LUNCH HAD BEEN SET-UP, AS I UNDER-
STAND IT, A MONTH IN ADVANCE OF ITS ACTUALLY BEING HELD.
THAT'S THE ONLY CONTACT THAT

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